

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing Of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule.

Claim 2 (Original): A modified starch having at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon group, acid group, blocked isocyanate group, isocyanate group, oxidative polymerizable group, radical polymerizable unsaturated group and amide group in a starch molecule.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the modified starch is a reactive modified starch having at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of an acid group, blocked isocyanate group, isocyanate group, oxidative polymerizable group, radical polymerizable unsaturated group and amide group.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 2 ~~claim 2 or 3~~, wherein said modified starch is a modified starch obtained by reacting a starch comprising the starch molecule and a compound having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in the starch molecule, and the hydroxyl group in the starch molecule is reacted with the reactive compound.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~, wherein linkage formed by the reaction of the hydroxyl group in the starch molecule with the reactive compound includes at least one linkage selected from an ester linkage, urethane linkage, urea linkage, amino linkage, and amide linkage.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~, wherein the modified starch is dissolved or dispersed into an organic solvent.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~, wherein the modified starch is dissolved or dispersed into a water based solvent.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~, wherein the modified starch is a powder.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 8~~, wherein the modified starch contains a curing catalyst and/or a curing promoter ~~promoter~~ necessary for curing the modified starch.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 8~~, wherein the modified starch is at least one reactively curable modified starch selected from an oxidative polymerization curable one, cold curable one, heat curable one and actinic ray curable one.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the modified starch contains a colorant.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~, wherein the modified starch is a resin for use in a coating material, adhesive material, printing material, sheet material, laminate material or molding material.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein the modified starch is a reactive modified starch.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a starch coating film, which method comprises forming a coating film onto a substrate by use of a coating material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 2 ~~claims 2 to 13~~.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a starch adhesive film, which method comprises forming an adhesive film onto a substrate by use of an adhesive material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 2 ~~claims 2 to 13~~.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a starch printing film, which method comprises forming a printing film onto a substrate by use of a

printing material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 2 ~~claims 2 to 13.~~

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a sheet, which method comprises forming a sheet by use of a sheet material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 2 ~~claims 2 to 13.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a laminate, which method comprises laminating by use of a laminate material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 2 ~~claims 2 to 13.~~

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a molded product, which method comprises molding by use of a molding material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ or a

modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 2 ~~claims 2 to 13~~.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A coated article obtained by the method as claimed in Claim ~~claim~~ 14.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An adhesive article obtained by the method as claimed in Claim ~~claim~~ 15.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A printed article obtained by the method as claimed in Claim ~~claim~~ 16.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A sheet article obtained by the method as claimed in Claim ~~claim~~ 17.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A laminate article obtained by the method as claimed in Claim ~~claim~~ 18.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A molded article obtained by the method as claimed in Claim ~~claim~~ 19.

Claim 26 (New): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said modified starch is a modified starch obtained by reacting a starch comprising the starch molecule and a compound having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in the starch molecule, and the hydroxyl group in the starch molecule is reacted with the reactive compound.

Claim 27 (New): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 26, wherein linkage formed by the reaction of the hydroxyl group in the starch molecule with the reactive compound includes at least one linkage selected from an ester linkage, urethane linkage, urea linkage, amino linkage, and amide linkage.

Claim 28 (New): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the modified starch is dissolved or dispersed into an organic solvent.

Claim 29 (New): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the modified starch is dissolved or dispersed into a water based solvent.

Claim 30 (New): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the modified starch is a powder.

Claim 31 (New): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the modified starch contains a curing catalyst and/or a curing promoter necessary for curing the modified starch.

Claim 32 (New): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the modified starch is at least one reactively curable modified starch selected from an oxidative polymerization curable one, cold curable one, heat curable one and actinic ray curable one.

Claim 33 (New): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the modified starch contains a colorant.

Claim 34 (New): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the modified starch is a resin for use in a coating material, adhesive material, printing material, sheet material, laminate material or molding material.

Claim 35 (New): A modified starch as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the modified starch is a reactive modified starch.

Claim 36 (New): A method of preparing a starch coating film, which method comprises forming a coating film onto a substrate by use of a coating material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a

starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule, or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 35.

Claim 37 (New): A method of preparing a starch adhesive film, which method comprises forming an adhesive film onto a substrate by use of an adhesive material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule, or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 35.

Claim 38 (New): A method of preparing a starch printing film, which method comprises forming a printing film onto a substrate by use of a printing material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule, or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 35.

Claim 39 (New): A method of preparing a sheet, which method comprises forming a sheet by use of a sheet material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule, or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 35.

Claim 40 (New): A method of preparing a laminate, which method comprises laminating by use of a laminate material containing the curable starch

composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule, or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claims 35.

Claim 41 (New): A method of preparing a molded product, which method comprises molding by use of a molding material containing the curable starch composition comprising a mixture of a starch and a curing agent having a functional group complementally reactive with at least one hydroxyl group contained in a starch molecule, or a modified starch selected from modified starches as claimed in Claim 35.